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SAPG-6133
Copy 2 of 6.

23 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Director of Operations
ATTENTION : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
SUBJECT : Requirement for Weather Instrumentation

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1. In a recent discussion with [REDACTED] he stated that due to the present diplomatic situation with regard to our operations he believes that all U-2's should carry some piece of weather data gathering equipment. I informed [REDACTED] that our present NACA/AMS equipment would be carried in only 1 or 2 airplanes scheduled strictly for weather cover flights but that none of our airplanes would carry such equipment on overflights.

2. [REDACTED] said that in his estimation this was not sufficient in case an airplane went down in unfriendly territory without any weather gathering equipment. If such airplanes went down and was not destroyed or was only damaged to a small extent, the Russians could prove that there was no weather gathering equipment on board. In such case Gen. Cabell said the U.S.S.R. could very easily have a UN representative come and view the wreckage and prove to him that there was no meteorological equipment. The fact that even a limited amount of weather gathering equipment could be removed by the Russians prior to showing the airplane to some UN representative has no bearing on this case.

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3. In view of the strong feeling of [REDACTED] I believe it is essential that we look into getting a very meager piece of meteorological or weather gathering equipment, such as some type of barometer or gust measuring instrument, which would weigh in the neighborhood of only ounces or at most a pound, and have it placed somewhere in the airplane so that we can plausibly say there was in fact weather instrumentation aboard. The fact that such a piece of equipment is valueless to us or possibly doesn't even function is immaterial.

4. I would like your comments on this and proposed action to carry out [REDACTED] request.

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[REDACTED]
Deputy Project Director

- 1 - Ops
- 2 - Admin/Cover

- 3 - JAG
- 4 - Reading

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